

## General Assembly

## Raised Bill No. 5417

February Session, 2018

LCO No. 1283



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by: (PH)

## AN ACT CONCERNING END-OF-LIFE CARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2018) As used in this section
- 2 and sections 2 to 19, inclusive, of this act:
- 3 (1) "Adult" means a person who is eighteen years of age or older;
- 4 (2) "Aid in dying" means the medical practice of a physician
- 5 prescribing medication to a qualified patient who is terminally ill,
- 6 which medication a qualified patient may self-administer to bring
- 7 about his or her death;
- 8 (3) "Attending physician" means the physician who has primary
- 9 responsibility for the medical care of a patient and treatment of a
- 10 patient's terminal illness;
- 11 (4) "Competent" means, in the opinion of a patient's attending
- 12 physician, consulting physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or a court,
- 13 that a patient has the capacity to understand and acknowledge the
- 14 nature and consequences of health care decisions, including the

LCO No. 1283 **1** of 16

benefits and disadvantages of treatment, to make an informed decision and to communicate such decision to a health care provider, including communicating through a person familiar with a patient's manner of communicating;

- (5) "Consulting physician" means a physician other than a patient's attending physician who (A) is qualified by specialty or experience to make a professional diagnosis and prognosis regarding a patient's terminal illness, and (B) does not routinely share office space with a patient's attending physician;
- (6) "Counseling" means one or more consultations as necessary between a psychiatrist or a psychologist and a patient for the purpose of determining that a patient is competent and not suffering from depression or any other psychiatric or psychological disorder that causes impaired judgment;
- 29 (7) "Health care provider" means a person licensed, certified or 30 otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of this state to 31 administer health care or dispense medication in the ordinary course 32 of business or practice of a profession, including, but not limited to, a 33 physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or pharmacist;
  - (8) "Health care facility" means a hospital, residential care home, nursing home or rest home, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes;
  - (9) "Informed decision" means a decision by a qualified patient to request and obtain a prescription for medication that the qualified patient may self-administer for aid in dying, that is based on an understanding and acknowledgment of the relevant facts and after being fully informed by the attending physician of: (A) The qualified patient's medical diagnosis and prognosis; (B) the potential risks associated with self-administering the medication to be dispensed or prescribed; (C) the probable result of taking the medication to be dispensed or prescribed; and (D) the feasible alternatives to aid in

LCO No. 1283 **2** of 16

dying and health care treatment options, including, but not limited to,palliative care;

- 48 (10) "Medically confirmed" means the medical opinion of the 49 attending physician has been confirmed by a consulting physician who 50 has examined the patient and the patient's relevant medical records;
- 51 (11) "Palliative care" means health care centered on a seriously ill 52 patient and such patient's family that (A) optimizes a patient's quality 53 of life by anticipating, preventing and treating a patient's suffering 54 throughout the continuum of a patient's terminal illness, (B) addresses 55 the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of a patient, (C) 56 facilitates patient autonomy, a patient's access to information and 57 patient choice, and (D) includes, but is not limited to, discussions 58 between a patient and a health care provider concerning a patient's 59 goals for treatment and appropriate treatment options available to a 60 patient, including hospice care and comprehensive pain and symptom 61 management;
- 62 (12) "Patient" means a person who is under the care of a physician;
- 63 (13) "Pharmacist" means a person licensed to practice pharmacy 64 pursuant to chapter 400j of the general statutes;
- 65 (14) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine and 66 surgery pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes;
- 67 (15) "Psychiatrist" means a physician specializing in psychiatry and 68 licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes;
- (16) "Psychologist" means a person licensed to practice psychology pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes;
- 71 (17) "Qualified patient" means a competent adult who is a resident 72 of this state, has a terminal illness and has satisfied the requirements of 73 this section and sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act, in order to obtain 74 aid in dying;

LCO No. 1283 3 of 16

75 (18) "Self-administer" means a qualified patient's act of ingesting 76 medication; and

- (19) "Terminal illness" means the final stage of an incurable and irreversible medical condition that an attending physician anticipates, within reasonable medical judgment, will produce a patient's death within six months.
- Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2018) (a) A patient who (1) is an adult, (2) is competent, (3) is a resident of this state, (4) has been determined by such patient's attending physician to have a terminal illness, and (5) has voluntarily expressed his or her wish to receive aid in dying, may request aid in dying by making two written requests to such patient's attending physician pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of this act.
  - (b) No person, including, but not limited to, an agent under a living will, an attorney-in-fact under a durable power of attorney, a guardian, or a conservator, may act on behalf of a patient for purposes of this section, section 1 or sections 3 to 19, inclusive, of this act.
  - Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2018) (a) A patient wishing to receive aid in dying shall submit two written requests to such patient's attending physician in substantially the form set forth in section 4 of this act. A patient's second written request for aid in dying shall be submitted not earlier than fifteen days after the date on which a patient submits the first request. A valid written request for aid in dying under sections 1 and 2 of this act and sections 4 to 19, inclusive, of this act shall be signed and dated by the patient. Each request shall be witnessed by at least two persons in the presence of the patient. Each person serving as a witness shall attest, in writing, that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief (1) the patient appears to be of sound mind, (2) the patient is acting voluntarily and not being coerced to sign the request, and (3) the witness is not: (A) A relative of the patient by blood, marriage or adoption, (B) entitled to any portion of the estate of

LCO No. 1283 **4** of 16

- 106 the patient upon the patient's death, under any will or by operation of 107 law, and (C) an owner, operator or employee of a health care facility 108 where the patient is a resident or receiving medical treatment.
- 109 (b) No person serving as a witness to a patient's request to receive 110 aid in dying shall be: (1) A relative of such patient by blood, marriage or adoption; (2) at the time the request is signed, entitled to any 112 portion of the estate of the patient upon the patient's death, under any 113 will or by operation of law; (3) an owner, operator or employee of a 114 health care facility where the patient is a resident or receiving medical 115 treatment; or (4) such patient's attending physician at the time the 116 request is signed.
- 117 (c) Any patient's act of requesting aid in dying or a qualified 118 patient's self-administration of medication prescribed for aid in dying 119 shall not provide the sole basis for appointment of a conservator or 120 guardian for such patient or qualified patient.
- 121 Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2018) A request for aid in dying as 122 authorized by this section, sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and 123 sections 5 to 19, inclusive, of this act shall be in substantially the 124 following form:
  - REQUEST FOR MEDICATION TO AID IN DYING
- 126 I, ...., am an adult of sound mind.

111

125

- 127 I am a resident of the State of Connecticut.
- 128 I am suffering from ..., which my attending physician has 129 determined is an incurable and irreversible medical condition that will, 130 within reasonable medical judgment, result in death within six months 131 from the date on which this document is executed. This diagnosis of a 132 terminal illness has been confirmed by another physician.
- 133 I have been fully informed of my diagnosis, prognosis, the nature of 134 medication to be dispensed or prescribed to aid me in dying, the

LCO No. 1283 **5** of 16 135 potential associated risks, the expected result, feasible alternatives to 136 aid in dying and additional health care treatment options, including 137 palliative care and the availability of counseling with a psychologist, 138 psychiatrist or licensed clinical social worker. 139 I request that my attending physician dispense or prescribe 140 medication that I may self-administer for aid in dying. I authorize my 141 attending physician to contact a pharmacist to fill the prescription for 142 such medication, upon my request. 143 INITIAL ONE: 144 .... I have informed my family of my decision and taken family 145 opinions into consideration. 146 .... I have decided not to inform my family of my decision. 147 .... I have no family to inform of my decision. 148 I understand that I have the right to rescind this request at any time. 149 I understand the full import of this request and I expect to die if and 150 when I take the medication to be dispensed or prescribed. I further 151 understand that although most deaths occur within three hours, my 152 death may take longer and my attending physician has counseled me 153 about this possibility. 154 I make this request voluntarily and without reservation, and I 155 accept full responsibility for my decision to request aid in dying. 156 Signed: .... 157 Dated: ....

LCO No. 1283 **6** of 16

By initialing and signing below on the date the person named above

**DECLARATION OF WITNESSES** 

signs, I declare that:

158

159

160

- 161 Witness 1 .... Witness 2 ....
- 162 Initials .... Initials ....
- 163 .... 1. The person making and signing the request is personally
- 164 known to me or has provided proof of identity;
- 165 .... 2. The person making and signing the request signed this request
- in my presence on the date of the person's signature;
- 167 .... 3. The person making the request appears to be of sound mind
- and not under duress, fraud or undue influence;
- 169 .... 4. I am not the attending physician for the person making the
- 170 request;
- 171 .... 5. The person making the request is not my relative by blood,
- 172 marriage or adoption;
- 173 .... 6. I am not entitled to any portion of the estate of the person
- making the request upon such person's death under any will or by
- 175 operation of law; and
- 176 .... 7. I am not an owner, operator or employee of a health care
- facility where the person making the request is a resident or receiving
- 178 medical treatment.
- 179 Printed Name of Witness 1 ....
- 180 Signature of Witness 1 .... Date ....
- 181 Printed Name of Witness 2 ....
- 182 Signature of Witness 2 .... Date ....
- 183 Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2018) (a) A qualified patient may
- 184 rescind his or her request for aid in dying at any time and in any
- manner without regard to his or her mental state.

LCO No. 1283 7 of 16

(b) An attending physician shall offer a qualified patient an opportunity to rescind his or her request for aid in dying at the time such patient submits a second written request for aid in dying to the attending physician.

- (c) No attending physician shall dispense or prescribe medication for aid in dying without the attending physician first offering the qualified patient a second opportunity to rescind his or her request for aid in dying.
- Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) When an attending physician is presented with a patient's first written request for aid in dying made pursuant to sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act, the attending physician shall:
- (1) Make a determination that the patient (A) is an adult, (B) has a terminal illness, (C) is competent, and (D) has voluntarily requested aid in dying. Such determination shall not be made solely on the basis of age, disability or any specific illness;
  - (2) Require the patient to demonstrate residency in this state by presenting: (A) A Connecticut driver's license; (B) a valid voter registration record authorizing the patient to vote in this state; or (C) any other government-issued document that the attending physician reasonably believes demonstrates that the patient is a current resident of this state;
  - (3) Ensure that the patient is making an informed decision by informing the patient of: (A) The patient's medical diagnosis; (B) the patient's prognosis; (C) the potential risks associated with self-administering the medication to be dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying; (D) the probable result of self-administering the medication to be dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying; (E) the feasible alternatives to aid in dying and health care treatment options including, but not limited to, palliative care; and (F) the availability of counseling with a psychologist, psychiatrist or licensed clinical social worker; and

LCO No. 1283 8 of 16

217 (4) Refer the patient to a consulting physician for medical 218 confirmation of the attending physician's diagnosis of the patient's 219 terminal illness, the patient's prognosis and for a determination that 220 the patient is competent and acting voluntarily in requesting aid in 221 dying.

- Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2018) In order for a patient to be found to be a qualified patient for the purposes of this section, sections 1 to 6, inclusive, of this act and sections 8 to 19, inclusive, of this act, a consulting physician shall: (1) Examine the patient and the patient's relevant medical records; (2) confirm, in writing, the attending physician's diagnosis that the patient has a terminal illness; (3) verify that the patient is competent, is acting voluntarily and has made an informed decision to request aid in dying; and (4) refer the patient for counseling, if required in accordance with section 8 of this act.
- Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) If, in the medical opinion of the attending physician or the consulting physician, a patient may be suffering from a psychiatric or psychological condition including, but not limited to, depression, that is causing impaired judgment, either the attending or consulting physician shall refer the patient for counseling to determine whether the patient is competent to request aid in dying.
  - (b) An attending physician shall not provide the patient aid in dying until the person providing such counseling determines that the patient is not suffering a psychiatric or psychological condition including, but not limited to, depression, that is causing impaired judgment.
  - Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) After an attending physician and a consulting physician determine that a patient is a qualified patient, in accordance with sections 6 to 8, inclusive, of this act and after such qualified patient submits a second request for aid in dying in accordance with sections 3 and 4 of this act, the attending physician shall:

LCO No. 1283 9 of 16

- (1) Recommend to the qualified patient that he or she notify his or her next of kin of the qualified patient's request for aid in dying and inform the qualified patient that a failure to do so shall not be a basis for the denial of such request;
- (2) Counsel the qualified patient concerning the importance of: (A)
  Having another person present when the qualified patient selfadministers the medication dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying;
  and (B) not taking the medication in a public place;
- 256 (3) Inform the qualified patient that he or she may rescind his or her 257 request for aid in dying at any time and in any manner;

258

259

260

261

262

263

264

265

266

267

268

269

270

271

272

273

- (4) Verify, immediately before dispensing or prescribing medication for aid in dying, that the qualified patient is making an informed decision;
- (5) Fulfill the medical record documentation requirements set forth in section 10 of this act; and
- (6) (A) Dispense such medication, including ancillary medication intended to facilitate the desired effect to minimize the qualified patient's discomfort, if the attending physician is authorized to dispense such medication, to the qualified patient; or (B) upon the qualified patient's request and with the qualified patient's written consent (i) contact a pharmacist and inform the pharmacist of the prescription, and (ii) personally deliver the written prescription, by mail, facsimile or electronic transmission to the pharmacist, who shall dispense such medications directly to the qualified patient, the attending physician or an expressly identified agent of the qualified patient.
- (b) The person signing the qualified patient's death certificate shall list the underlying terminal illness as the cause of death.
- Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2018) The attending physician

LCO No. 1283 10 of 16

- shall ensure that the following items are documented or filed in a qualified patient's medical record:
- (1) The basis for determining that a qualified patient is an adult and a resident of the state;
- (2) All oral requests by a qualified patient for medication for aid in dying;
- 283 (3) All written requests by a qualified patient for medication for aid 284 in dying;
- 285 (4) The attending physician's diagnosis of a qualified patient's 286 terminal illness and prognosis, and a determination that a qualified 287 patient is competent, is acting voluntarily and has made an informed 288 decision to request aid in dying;
- 289 (5) The consulting physician's confirmation of a qualified patient's 290 diagnosis and prognosis, confirmation that a qualified patient is 291 competent, is acting voluntarily and has made an informed decision to 292 request aid in dying;
- 293 (6) A report of the outcome and determinations made during 294 counseling, if counseling was recommended and provided in 295 accordance with section 8 of this act;
- (7) Documentation of the attending physician's offer to a qualified patient to rescind his or her request for aid in dying at the time the attending physician dispenses or prescribes medication for aid in dying; and
- 300 (8) A statement by the attending physician indicating that (A) all requirements under this section and sections 1 to 9, inclusive, of this 302 act have been met, and (B) the steps taken to carry out a qualified patient's request for aid in dying, including the medication dispensed or prescribed.

LCO No. 1283 11 of 16

Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) Any person, other than a qualified patient, in possession of medication dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying that has not been self-administered shall return such medication to the attending physician or the Commissioner of Consumer Protection in accordance with section 21a-252 of the general statutes.

- Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) Any provision of a contract, including, but not limited to, a contract related to an insurance policy or annuity, conditioned on or affected by the making or rescinding of a request for aid in dying shall not be valid.
- 315 (b) On and after October 1, 2018, the sale, procurement or issuance 316 of any life, health or accident insurance or annuity policy or the rate 317 charged for any such policy shall not be conditioned upon or affected 318 by the making or rescinding of a request for aid in dying.

319

320

321

322

323

324

325

326

327

328

329

330

331

332

333

- (c) A qualified patient's act of requesting aid in dying or self-administering medication dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying shall not constitute suicide for any purpose, including, but not limited to, a criminal prosecution under section 53a-56 of the general statutes.
- Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) As used in this section, "participate in the provision of medication" means to perform the duties of an attending physician or consulting physician, a psychiatrist, psychologist or pharmacist in accordance with the provisions of sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act. "Participate in the provision of medication" does not include: (1) Making an initial diagnosis of a patient's terminal illness; (2) informing a patient of his or her medical diagnosis or prognosis; (3) informing a patient concerning the provisions of this section, sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act and sections 16 to 19, inclusive, of this act, upon the patient's request; or (4) referring a patient to another health care provider for aid in dying.
- 334 (b) Participation in any act described in sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of 335 this act and sections 16 to 19, inclusive, of this act by a patient, health

LCO No. 1283 **12** of 16

care provider or any other person shall be voluntary. Each health care provider shall individually and affirmatively determine whether to participate in the provision of medication to a qualified patient for aid in dying. A health care facility shall not require a health care provider to participate in the provision of medication to a qualified patient for aid in dying, but may prohibit such participation in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344

345

346

347

348

349

350

351

352

353 354

355

356

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

- (c) If a health care provider or health care facility chooses not to participate in the provision of medication to a qualified patient for aid in dying, upon request of a qualified patient, such health care provider or health care facility shall transfer all relevant medical records to any health care provider or health care facility, as directed by a qualified patient.
- (d) A health care facility may adopt written policies prohibiting a health care provider associated with such health care facility from participating in the provision of medication to a patient for aid in dying, provided such facility provides written notice of such policy and any sanctions for violation of such policy to such health care provider. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection or any policies adopted in accordance with this subsection, a health care provider may: (1) Diagnose a patient with a terminal illness; (2) inform a patient of his or her medical prognosis; (3) provide a patient with information concerning the provisions of this section, sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act and sections 16 to 19, inclusive, of this act, upon a patient's request; (4) refer a patient to another health care facility or health care provider; (5) transfer a patient's medical records to a health care provider or health care facility, as requested by a patient; or (6) participate in the provision of medication for aid in dying when such health care provider is acting outside the scope of his or her employment or contract with a health care facility that prohibits participation in the provision of such medication.
  - (e) Except as provided in a policy adopted in accordance with

LCO No. 1283 13 of 16

subsection (d) of this section, no health care facility may subject an employee or other person who provides services under contract with the health care facility to disciplinary action, loss of privileges, loss of membership or any other penalty for participating, or refusing to participate, in the provision of medication or related activities in good faith compliance with the provisions of this section, sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act and sections 16 to 19, inclusive, of this act.

- Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) A person is guilty of murder when such person, without authorization of a patient, wilfully alters or forges a request for aid in dying, as described in sections 3 and 4 of this act, or conceals or destroys a rescission of such a request for aid in dying with the intent or effect of causing the patient's death.
- (b) A person is guilty of murder when such person coerces or exerts undue influence on a patient to complete a request for aid in dying, as described in sections 3 and 4 of this act, or coerces or exerts undue influence on a patient to destroy a rescission of such request with the intent or effect of causing the patient's death.
- Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) Nothing in sections 1 to 14, inclusive, of this act or sections 16 to 19, inclusive, of this act authorizes a physician or any other person to end another person's life by lethal injection, mercy killing, assisting a suicide or any other active euthanasia.
- (b) No action taken in accordance with sections 1 to 14, inclusive, of this act or sections 16 to 19, inclusive, of this act shall constitute causing or assisting another person to commit suicide in violation of section 53a-54a or 53a-56 of the general statutes.
- (c) No person shall be subject to civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, revocation of such person's professional license, for (1) participating in the provision of medication or related activities in good faith compliance with the provisions of sections 1 to 14, inclusive, of this act

LCO No. 1283 **14** of 16

and sections 16 to 19, inclusive, of this act, or (2) being present at the time a qualified patient self-administers medication dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying.

402

403

404

405

406

407

- (d) An attending physician's dispensing of, or issuance of a prescription for medication for aid in dying or a patient's request for aid in dying, in good faith compliance with the provisions of sections 1 to 19, inclusive, of this act shall not constitute neglect for the purpose of any law or provide the sole basis for appointment of a guardian or conservator for such patient.
- Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) Sections 1 to 15, inclusive, of this act or sections 17 to 19, inclusive, of this act do not limit liability for civil damages resulting from negligent conduct or intentional misconduct by any person.
- Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) Any person who knowingly possesses, sells or delivers medication dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying for any purpose other than delivering such medication to a qualified patient, or returning such medication in accordance with section 11 of this act, shall be guilty of a class D felony.
- (b) Nothing in sections 1 to 16, inclusive, of this act or section 18 or 19 of this act shall preclude criminal prosecution under any provision of law for conduct that is inconsistent with said sections.
- Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) Nothing in sections 1 to 17, inclusive, of this act or section 19 of this act shall limit the jurisdiction or authority of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities under chapter 813 of the general statutes.
- Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) No person who serves as an attending physician, consulting physician or a witness as described in section 3 of this act, or otherwise participates in the provision of medication for aid in dying to a qualified patient, shall inherit or

LCO No. 1283 **15** of 16

receive any part of the estate of such qualified patient, whether under the provisions of law relating to intestate succession or as a devisee or legatee, or otherwise under the will of such qualified patient, or receive any property as beneficiary or survivor of such qualified patient after such qualified patient has self-administered medication dispensed or prescribed for aid in dying.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following		
sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 3	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 4	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 5	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 6	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 7	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 8	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 9	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 10	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 11	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 12	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 13	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 14	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 15	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 16	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 17	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 18	October 1, 2018	New section
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section

## Statement of Purpose:

To allow a physician to dispense or prescribe medication at the request of a mentally competent patient that has a terminal illness that such patient may self-administer to bring about his or her death.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

LCO No. 1283 **16** of 16